

## Title: Reviving a 'Reading-Ecosystem' through Holistic Library Practices

Being the backbone of any University, Central Library plays a crucial role in the larger arena of the academic institution towards the entire academic fraternity. With this backdrop, the Central Library of Tripura University has achieved a level of superiority, by starting its journey from

scratches. From the dearth of information resources in the Central Library system, the tireless efforts of the library staff have created a Manhattan of knowledge during the last five years. However, the real challenge is to motivate users to use different library services physically. To



combat with such a challenge, Central Library started a series of evidence-based inventive initiatives to create a 'conducive environment' for its patrons. The basic objective behind the Central library's complete renovation points towards the creation of a 'Reading Ecosystem', for the stakeholders of the University, with the primary focus to provide solid intellectual platform to

the teaching fraternity and student community for best academic practices and to create learning environment.



### Objectives

In the broad objective of the overall development of the library system, the Tripura University Central Library always aims to promote the healthy reading habit of the students, to offer a conducive research environment to the teaching fraternity, through provisioning of better physical and intellectual infrastructural



  
Director  
IQAC, Tripura University  
Agartala-799022, Tripura.

support, such as reading space, hassle-free access to information resources by adopting innovative technologies such as remote access facilities. On a larger prospect, the Central Library offers library guidance visit, to creates acquaintance among the school children, who, as a part of their educational tour, visit Tripura University, a beacon of education and knowledge of the state.



## **Context**

The Central Library faces multi-dimensional challenges such as footfall of users for utilizing services and resources, competitive threats from the external environment, adoption of emerging technologies, user engagement and services provisioning information to potential library users, availability of proper contents, effective knowledge management, etc. During the past few years, large number of users were unaware of the library services, information resources, and facilities for teaching, learning, research, and innovation. In such a challenging situation, library reforms and sensitization of the users was one of the prime initiatives, carried out by Central Library. Providing the right information to the right users at the right time was the main motto of the Central Library. In this backdrop, the Central Library aims to increase the utilization of the Library's services, information resources and facilities by taking initiatives such as library membership drive-cum-orientation program, conservation and promotion of manuscript, optimum utilization of the library resources and as an extension service, encouraging library literacy among the school children.

## **Practice**

User engagement and effective utilization of the library's resources and services were among the daunting tasks of Central Library. At this juncture, Central Library played a significant role in improving effective utilization of the



library through evidence-based-innovative practices. To enroll more users, every year, the Central Library conducts membership drive-cum-orientation programs for newly admitted students across all departments. The section-in-charge of membership and circulation and the trained staff are entrusted the responsibilities of promoting and extending the services and information resources through library membership drive-cum-orientation programs. An email notification is generally sent to all heads of departments / centres to enlist newly admitted students and their allotted slots for the smooth conduction of the program. After receiving the confirmation from the respective departments, users' enrollment through orientation drive is carried out under the supervision of the section-in-chare with staff support. All the academic departments participate in this endeavor.

### **Sensitizing Users during Library Membership Drive**



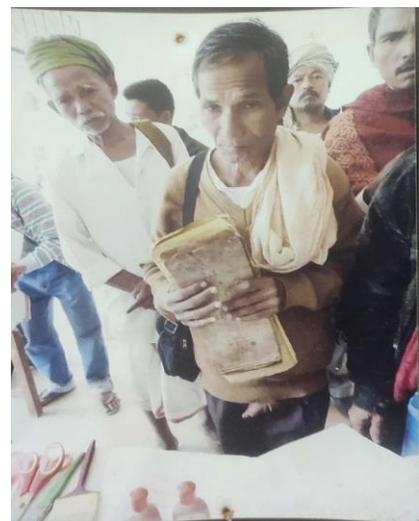


In the effort to inculcate reading habits among the school students, the Central Library plays a creative role. It has taken initiatives to motivate school students to read books to develop knowledge and gain idea about the value of the Library for their all-around development. To sensitize school students about the importance of the Library, the Central

Library invites school students to visit the Library during their educational visits of the University campus. During such tours, young minds are sensitized about the benefits of reading books and its value in shaping their minds and characters. The central library has created a conducive environment for them to visit different sections of the library, which helps to develop reading habits among them.



Manuscripts are considered the most important and authentic source to know our ancestors' intellectual output and the boon from our predecessors. It is the manuscripts, based on which we can connect the past with present knowledge society. The ancient cultural heritage can be ruined by natural disasters or over a period of time by sheer neglect. Conservation and preservation of manuscripts with appropriate methods are important steps to reveal the past through cultural information. Central Library of Tripura University has been instrumental in conserving and preserving the manuscripts of the North-East region. The library has preserved more than two hundred rare manuscripts collected



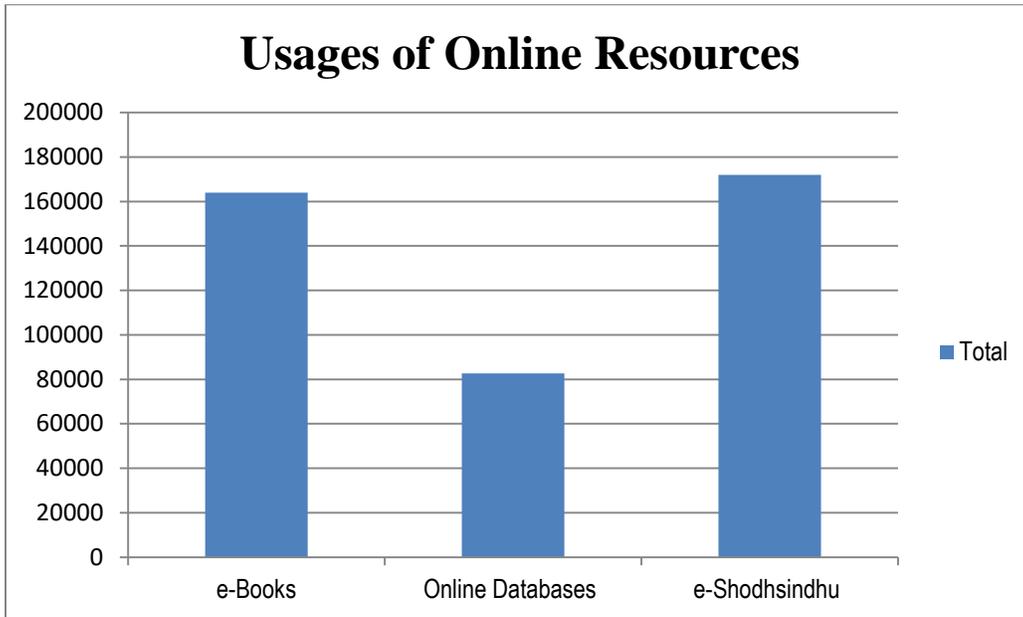
from different parts of Tripura. It has been the centre of attraction for the visitors. The Central Library has taken several initiatives to collect and preserve the rarest and most endangered manuscripts for the future generation. Collected manuscripts have been preserved through scientific methods and are properly catalogued. The Central library has conducted several workshops and seminars from time to time to sensitize the importance of conserving and preserving ancient manuscripts. The manuscript donors were sensitized to donate their manuscripts for the benefit of research, teaching and learning.



### **Evidence of Success**

After taking library membership drive-cum-orientation program initiatives, the library usage in terms of services, information resources and facilities have been dramatically increased. Now teachers and students are frequently visiting the library to access resources for learning and research. The Library becomes the 'learning hub' among users for teaching, learning, research, and innovation. Library visit has become a popular practice to the academic community of the University. The library has witnessed a sustained increase in the use of physical and digital resources by the faculty members and students during the last five years. Further, Library visit has become a popular practice among the school students during their Educational Tours.

## Usages of Online Resources



### Appreciations

TATHAGATA ROY, Chief Rector tathagata2@gmail.com		A pleasure
[ Sri Tathagata Roy, Former Governor of Tripura]		

MANAS RANJAN MAHAPATRA DIRECTOR, I & PR NEC, SHILLONG		It is wonderful to find a place of vibrant
[Sri Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Director, NEC, Shillong]		

Prof. Ganga Prasad Prasain Vice-Chancellor Tripura University Agartala, Email: gpprasain@gmail.com	I have visited the Library of Tripura University on 15.10.2020 I have interacted with all librarians & Library staff Have also seen all the stacks, reading room and e-learning Centre	The Library. Only a few journals are being subscribed in the library faculty Members have to send the list of more journals for subscription in the library. We have to checkup the list of journals more soon in the library. GPR 15.10.2020
[Prof. Ganga Prasad Prasain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Tripura University]		

Prof. Dr. Kazi Mostak Gausul Haq  
Chairman  
Dept. of Information Science &  
Library Management  
University of Dhaka  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

email:  
kmgsharif@gmail.com

I am really impressed to see and visit such a beautiful library. The library is very much well organized, the collection is very rich and the people who are managing the library are highly skilled. Great and unforgettable experience for me.

[Prof. Kazi Mostak, Chairman, DLIS, University of Dhaka]

Engr. Dr. Umma Abdullahi (Ass. Prof.)  
Centre for Energy Research & Training  
Ahmadu Bello University Zaria,  
Kaduna State Nigeria  
Email: yabi78@yahoo.com  
ummaabdullahi@abu.edu.ng

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I was so impressed about the library. It is a conducive atmosphere for learning. The standard is quite okay to compare in the world.

 2/03/20

Dr. R. B. BARMAN, Former Chairman,  
National Statistical Commission,  
barmanrb@gmail.com

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I found the support from the Librarian very friendly and professional. I was looking for a book for a long time which he helped me to access. All my best wishes for professional excellence.  
R. B. Barman  
11. 3. 2020

[Dr. R.B. Barman, Former Chairman, National Statistical Commission]

### Problems encountered and Resource Required -

- The distance of some academic departments from the Central Library and the short intervals and breaks in-between classes are major hindrances for the physical uses of library resources.
- Poor economic condition of students along with inadequate internet connectivity in remote parts of the state creates hindrance to utilise remote access facilities.
- Inadequate ICT facility to show documentary on the importance of library to the school children.

### Following resources are required to implement the practice -

- Trained, capable and dedicated staff for each section.
- Adequate number of subscribed e-resources along with computer facility with uninterrupted internet connectivity and library automation software.

## SOME GLIMPSES



Users during Orientation-cum-Membership-Drive at Central Library, Tripura University



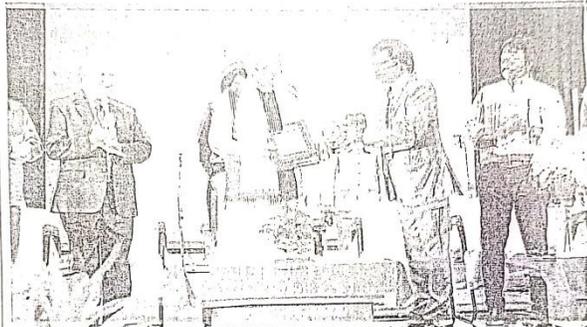
Library Visit of School Students during their Educational Tour, Tripura University

# Activities on Manuscript Conservation and Preservation Centre, TU



# MEDIA COVERAGE ON LIBRARY AND MANUSCRIPT CENTRE, TRIPURA UNIVERSITY

## Governor eulogizes importance of Library



Times News

Agartala, Nov 15: Libraries are not only the store house of information but also an instrument for preserving and protecting the identity and values of a 'nation'. But with the changing time libraries should also change accordingly to meet the emerging demands, said Prof Kaptan Singh Solanki, Governor of Tripura and Chief Rector of Tripura University.

He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of PLANNER -2018 (Promotion of Library Automation and Networking in North East Region) - a biennial convention as Chief Guest today.

"It is all the more imperative that the library should be adequately used in activi-

ties relating to people's welfare and development of the society" the Governor maintained.

Referring to the North East region Prof Solanki in his speech said, the region is 'far ahead' in many aspects in the country. He was also all praise for the Tripura University Vice Chancellor Dr V L Dharurkar.

Vice Chancellor Dr V L Dharurkar in his speech stressed on the importance of a library for total and wholesome development of the society. Quoting great philosopher Marcus

Tullius Cicero Dr Dharurkar said two most important things that humankind needed were "a beautiful garden and an enriching library".

He also dwelt on the significance of a library in a

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## Webinar on Library Marketing held

Times News

Agartala, Jul 07: Readers Club International (a public Library network) organized the International Webinar. Series -2 in a homely and congenial atmosphere from Readers Club International, Agartala on 'Library Marketing: Opportunities of Library Services' today at 12pm. Subhrangshu Sekhar Bhattacharya, Secretary, officially opened the webinar and introduced the panellists by name and profession and Dr Bhaskar Roy Barman in his address of welcome stressed the timeliness of organizing such webinar.

Dr Badhan Barman, Guwahati University, elaborated on how to market the library. Marketing is not used in the sense of buying and selling goods; it is a process of luring readers into the library in the manner of luring buyers into the market. Prahlad Jadav, Senior Knowledge Manager, Khaitan & Co., in his long speech, encompassing different aspects of library marketing, elaborated upon it Dr. B. Sanjay, Librarian, Tripura University, brought the oft-used term 'Branding' linked to marketing into his speech and explained branding of the library identifies the users. As many as 1832 scholars, including 336 from abroad registered for the webinar.

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

NORTH-EAST

## Resource centre recovers century-old manuscripts

**Tripura's Manuscript Resource Centre (MRC) has set a record by collecting more than 1,000 manuscripts brought in by animal herders from different tribal communities over a year.**

The Tripura Manuscript Resource Centre (MRC) has set a record by collecting more than 1,000 manuscripts brought in by animal herders from different tribal communities over a year. The manuscripts are subjects like the history of ethnic tribes, their culture, music, poetry, medicine practices and Hinduism. The manuscripts found are all bound in animal hide like that of dog, python, bear and leopard, which experts say was done to help them withstand the ravages of time. As per the previous survey conducted in 2006, the total numbers of manuscripts found in Tripura were only 567. Out of these, Hari Krishna Acharye of Agartala, South Tripura Districtal repository had 220 manuscripts lying in his custody. "Our report reveals a vast collection of manuscripts, already trapped, are lying in Sillabard, Manikchhari, Haldibari, Dumburam, Mahabongga, Machhara, Panchcharal in North Tripura and Unakoti, Kamalpur and Khowai" Poddar stated.

## Intl Webinar on Manuscripts

Times News

Agartala, July 14: Readers Club International (a public Library network) organized the International Webinar, Series -3 on 'Preservation and conservation of Manuscripts and Library Materials' from Readers Club International Centre, Agartala on July 14.

Subhrangshu Sekhar Bhattacharya, Secretary, officially opened the webinar and introduced the panellists. Dr Bhaskar Roy Barman, President, delivered the address of welcome. Dr Hari Sankar Chakraborty coordinated the programme. Speakers: Dr Ramesh C. Gaur, Dean and Director, IGNC, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi, Dr Mahesh Kumar Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Tripura University, Dr P. Perumal, formerly Conservator and Librarian, Tanjavur, presently Tamilnadu State Coordinator, Tamilnadu Manuscript Mission, Tamilnadu, Sunil Ganeshan, Director, Roja Muthiah Research Centre, Chennai and Ms Nadeeka Ratnabalu, Senior Lecturer, University of Kulaniya, Sri Lanka spoke about different methods of preserving and conserving manuscripts against the onslaught of time and the damaging by worms.

Dr Mahesh Kumar Singh in his speech told of how knowledge of Chemistry greatly help in preserving and conserving manuscripts. As many as 2860 scholars including 798 foreign scholars registered for this international webinar. The countries represented are; Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Ithopia, Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangkok, Thailand, Bangladesh, Nepal, Ukraine, Japan, Singapore, Australia, Russia, Columbia and Argentina.

*(Signature)*

Director  
IQAC, Tripura University  
Agartala-799022, Tripura.